

Appl. No. 10/671,924  
Response dated July 20, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2007

**Amendment to the Drawings:**

The attached new drawing sheet includes FIG. 6. Applicant has now added FIG. 6 to illustrate a network interface as described in the specification as originally filed. No new matter is being added.

Attachment: New Drawing Sheet

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 remain in this application. Claims 1, 10, and 11 have now been amended, without introducing new matter.

### 1. Objection to Claim 10

Claim 10 stands objected to by the Examiner. The Examiner indicates that claim 10 is objected to as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Applicant has now amended claim 1 and claim 10 to clarify that the voice module is positively recited as a claimed element of claim 10, but is not positively recited as a claimed element of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 10.

### 2. Objections to the Drawings

The figures stand objected to by the Examiner. The Examiner indicates that the combination and separation of voice and instrument data must be shown or the feature canceled from the claims.

Applicant has added new FIG. 6 to illustrate a network interface (110) module having a first connector (115) for connecting with the electronic instrument, a second connector (125) for connecting with a voice module, and a third connector (135) connecting with a network, the network interface module (110) and the network configured to interchange combined voice and instrument data (1100) via the third connector (135), and the network interface module (110) configured to effect transposition between combined voice and instrument data (1100) and separated

instrument data (1105) and voice data (1110). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

3. Rejection under 35 USC 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner requested that the Applicant show by page and line of the specification how the voice and data are multiplexed and demultiplexed, what is the electronic instrument, how do the elements disclosed interact with each other."

Applicant has now amended claim 1 to call for an instrument system, comprising an electronic instrument; and a network interface module having **a first connector** for connecting with the electronic instrument, **a second connector** for connecting with a voice module, and **a third connector** for connecting with a network, wherein the network interface module and the electronic instrument are **configured to interchange instrument data via the first connector**, wherein the network interface module and the voice module are **configured to interchange voice data via a second connector**, wherein the voice data is in the form of an electronic signal, wherein the network interface module and the network are **configured to interchange combined voice and instrument data via the third connector**, and wherein the network interface module is configured to **effect transposition between combined voice and instrument data and separated instrument data and voice data**. (Emphasis added.)

Applicant asserts that the Examiner has not established a reasonable basis for questioning the adequacy of the disclosure. The Examiner has not shown that a person skilled in the art would not be able to make or use the claimed invention without resorting to undue experimentation. Applicant asserts that the specification describes the manner and process of making and using the claimed invention as to enable any person skilled in the art to make and use the invention. There is no requirement that the application disclose information sufficient to enable manufacture

of a commercial product incorporating the invention. In addition, amended claim 1 specifies how the elements interact with each other. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1-24 are allowable.

#### 4. Rejection of Claims 1-23 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Danieli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,935,959; referred to herein as "Danieli".)

Claim 1, as amended, calls for:

An instrument system, comprising:  
an electronic instrument; and  
a network interface module having **a first connector** for connecting with the electronic instrument, **a second connector** for connecting with a voice module, and **a third connector** for connecting with a network, wherein the network interface module and the electronic instrument are configured to interchange **instrument data via the first connector**, wherein the network interface module and the voice module are configured to **interchange voice data via a second connector**, wherein the voice data is in the form of an electronic signal, wherein the network interface module and the network are configured to **interchange combined voice and instrument data via the third connector**, and wherein the network interface module is configured to effect transposition between combined voice and instrument data and separated instrument data and voice data. (Emphasis added.)

Applicant disagrees with the Examiner that Danieli discloses "the network interface module and a voice module interchange voice data via a second connector (see figure 1, elements 142, 140)." (See page 4 of the Office Action of 04/20/2007.)

Danieli discloses "a corresponding voice communications module 140' like that coupled to controller 104a" and "voice communication module 140' **connects into the functional unit or module port on controller 104a** through a USB connection (not separately shown). Similarly, digital sound data coming from game console 100 are **conveyed through controller 104a** and applied to USB interface 163, which conveys the digital signal to DSP 156 and onto DAC 161. DAC 161 converts the digital signal into a corresponding analog signal that is used to drive headphone 146." (See Col. 6, lines 3-28; emphasis added.)

Danieli does not disclose network interface module having **a first connector** for connecting with the electronic instrument, **a second connector** for connecting with a voice module, the network interface module and the electronic instrument configured to interchange **instrument data via the first connector**, and the network interface module and the voice module configured to **interchange voice data via a second connector**. Rather, Danieli teaches away from the present invention as claimed inasmuch as the game console (i.e., the “interface module”) has a single connector, a USB cable 30 connecting controller 104a (the “electronic instrument”) to console 102, which carries all data to the “electronic instrument” and the “voice module”. The “second connector” of Danieli does not connect “an interface module” to a voice module, but connects “the electronic instrument” to a voice module. Accordingly, claims 1-23 are believed to be allowable.

#### 5. Rejection of Claim 24 Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Danieli. Claim 24 ultimately depends from independent claim 1, and includes the limitations of claim 1 as discussed above. Accordingly, claim 24 is believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, Applicant respectfully requests the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
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